

## 4.16

## Usage Words

You can avoid some writing difficulties by knowing how and when to use the following italicized words. Study their usage, and use them as they should be used in your future writings.

1. *beside*: next to

We walked *beside* one another to the beach.

2. *besides*: in addition to

*Besides* Maine, is there another state whose name is monosyllabic?

3. *anywhere*: in, at, or to any place

Can I find peace *anywhere* in this house?

4. *anywheres*: There is no such word as *anywheres*.

5. *as*: a word that starts a subordinate clause; (adverb) equally; (conjunction) in the same manner; (preposition) in the role, or function

Justin sang *as* the band accompanied him.

The magician is just *as* good on this smaller stage.

This woman poses *as* one who knows more than she does.

Jill runs as fast *as* lightning.

6. *like*: a word that starts a prepositional phrase

Geraldine walks *like* her aunt.

7. *farther*: used to designate a physical distance

Today I walked *farther* than I had last week.

8. *further*: "additional"

Listen for *further* instructions.

9. *can*: able to

Ollie *can* lift those heavy weights.

10. *may*: allowed to

*May* I please be excused from the table?

11. *adverse*: opposed; moving or working in an opposite direction

We encountered *adverse* weather conditions on our ocean cruise.

4.16

## Usage Words (*Continued*)

12. *averse*: “reluctant” or “not willing”

We are *averse* to going way out on the ocean again.

13. *cent*: 1/100th of a dollar

Gerry found one *cent* on the floor.

14. *sent*: past tense of the verb “to send”

Reggie *sent* my sister some flowers.

15. *scent*: the smell of something or someone

The dog was able to pick up the burglar’s *scent* right away.

16. *continuous*: something that keeps happening without interruption

They played *continuous* holiday music for more than a month on my dad’s favorite radio station.

17. *continual*: that which happens again and again

His *continual* misbehavior in class was enough to have his teacher send him to the principal’s office.

18. *emigrate from*: “to leave one country to live in another country”

My relative *emigrated* from Bohemia.

19. *immigrate to*: “to come to a new country or area”

Did your family *immigrate* to America at the turn of the twentieth century?

20. *famous*: “well known”

Celine Dion is a *famous* singer.

21. *notorious*: “famous but in a bad way”

The bank robbers had become *notorious* because of their many heists.

22. *vary*: a verb that means “to change”

To prevent boredom, I *vary* my exercise program.

23. *very*: an adjective that means “complete”

This is the *very* thing that I was telling you!

As an adverb, *very* means “extremely.”

The triathlete was *very* tired after his excruciating workout.

4.16

# Usage Words (*Continued*)

24. *right*: the opposite of wrong; the opposite of left; a power; correct or proper

You have made the *right* decision.

Please make a *right* turn at the next corner.

I have a *right* to my own opinion.

You know that this is the *right* thing to do, Celeste.

25. *write*: "to record in print"

May I *write* down all of these fantastic quotations, Mark?

26. *rite*: a ceremony

Obtaining one's driving license is a *rite* of passage in our country.

27. *wright*: a worker

My uncle earns his living as a *playwright* in New York City.

28. *sight*: the "act of seeing" or "something that is seen"

The Grand Canyon is a memorable and awesome *sight*.

29. *cite*: to quote

The lawyer chose to *cite* a former court decision to the jury members.

30. *site*: the position or location of a building or town

This is the former *site* of the baseball stadium.

31. *vane*: the instrument that indicates wind direction

Have you installed the latest *vane* on the barn roof?

32. *vain*: not amounting to anything; full of oneself

Though Robin tried her hardest, her efforts were in *vain*, for the water still flooded the basement.

The guy was so *vain* that he thought he was even more handsome than the best looking Greek god.

33. *vein*: blood vessel

Edward was so angry that it looked as if his *vein* was going to pop.

34. *its*: the possessive form of the pronoun *it*

Going out to parties has lost *its* appeal for my friends and me.

## 4.16 Usage Words (*Continued*)

35. *it's*: a contraction for *it* plus *is*

*It's* starting to rain.

36. *lend*: to allow someone else to use what is yours

Harry wanted to *lend* his best ice skates to his cousin, Gary.

37. *borrow*: to receive for temporary use

Gary wanted to *borrow* ice skates from his cousin Harry.

38. *personal*: private

This is my *personal* business that nobody else needs to know.

39. *personnel*: workers at a job

The *personnel* at our local department store are congenial employees.

40. *pour*: to cause a flow

Can you please *pour* the baby some milk?

41. *poor*: needy

The *poor* soil did not allow plants to grow.

The *poor* people of Paris revolted in 1789.

42. *pore*: a tiny opening in the skin

Sweat seeped out of the athlete's *pores* during the marathon event.

43. *quote*: to repeat or cite

May I *quote* your direct words as evidence, Charles?

44. *quotation*: something that is quoted

Here are some of Ben Franklin's most practical *quotations*.

45. *set*: to put in place

Are the arrangements for Helen's going-away party all *set*?

46. *sit*: to rest in a seated position

Please *sit* down here, Maura.

47. *than*: to compare two or more people, places, or things

Is your coach taller *than* you?

48. *then*: referring to time

*Then* we read the next three chapters of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

4.16

## Usage Words (*Continued*)

49. *imply*: to suggest indirectly

Did you *imply* that Diana is the one who lost your briefcase?

50. *infer*: to draw a conclusion from facts

I did not *infer* that Diana lost your briefcase.

51. *unless*: in any other case than (subordinating conjunction that begins a subordinate clause)

*Unless* you achieve the minimum score, you cannot advance in the tournament.

52. *without*: free from; not with (preposition that begins a prepositional phrase)

They practiced *without* pain.

Tiwana was wearing an outfit *without* jewelry.

53. *which*: pronoun that refers to things only

The house, *which* my uncle bought recently, is in the next town.

54. *who*: relative pronoun that refers to people only

The president *who* was reelected is ecstatic tonight.

55. *that*: pronoun that refers to both people and things

Lucy is the type of leader *that* we need.

This motorcycle is the one *that* I talked to you about yesterday.

56. *have*: a helping verb

Hermie could *have* drawn that picture last week.

57. *of*: a preposition that is never used as part of a verb phrase

58. *aid*: to help (as a verb); help (as a noun)

Other countries came to *aid* the country that had been devastated by the tsunami.

Sy came to the *aid* of the drowning swimmer in time to bring him to safety.

59. *aide*: one who helps another

My sister works as a nurse's *aide* in the local hospital.

60. *learn*: to acquire knowledge

Can you *learn* that much about motors in one month?

61. *teach*: to instruct

I would like to *teach* you how to fix this car's leak.

**4.16**

**Usage Words (*Continued*)**

62. *doesn't*: contraction meaning "does not"

The temperamental chef *doesn't* like to be told what to do.

63. *don't*: contraction meaning "do not"

The chef's bosses also *don't* like being told what to do. (Avoid using contractions in formal writing.)

64. *discover*: to be the first to find

Did Christopher Columbus *discover* America?

65. *invent*: to think out and produce

Did Thomas Edison *invent* the light bulb?

66. *healthy*: pertaining to good health

My trim and strong sister-in-law has always eaten a *healthy* diet.

67. *healthful*: that which brings good health

My sister-in-law has always participated in many *healthful* activities.

68. *bust*: use "burst" instead of "busted"

The pipe *burst* during the winter cold spell.

69. *busted*: use "broke" instead of "busted"

Carlos *broke* his arm during the wrestling match.

70. *good*: an adjective

Justina is a *good* card player.

71. *well*: an adverb

Justina plays cards *well*.

72. *fewer*: used with plural words; answers the question, "How many"

There are *fewer* opportunities for this kind of plan.

73. *less*: used with singular words; answers the question, "How much"

This team has *less* spirit than last year's squad.

74. *affect*: a verb meaning "to influence"

How will your absence *affect* your class participation grade?

4.16

## Usage Words (*Continued*)

75. *effect*: a noun meaning “result”; a verb meaning “to accomplish” or “to produce”

What *effect* did your absences have on your class participation grade?

To *effect* change, all of the political party members must work hard and have patience.

76. *respectfully*: politely

The police officer *respectfully* asked us to move on to the curb so the runners could pass by more easily.

77. *respectively*: in precisely the order given

I would like to refer to you three as Moe, Larry, and Curly, *respectively*.

78. *accept*: a verb that means “to receive willingly”

Will you *accept* this apology from me?

79. *except*: a preposition that means “but” or “other than”

All of the stock car drivers participated *except* Darrell.

80. *explicit*: fully and clearly expressed or demonstrated

Pushkala thought that she had given the group members *explicit* directions on how to get to her house.

81. *implicit*: implied, rather than expressly stated

Without Hank’s being obvious, his *implicit* words told us what he wanted us to do at that time in the game.

82. *slow*: an adjective that means the “opposite of fast”

You are not a *slow* learner!

83. *slowly*: an adverb meaning “the opposite of quickly”

Unfortunately, we completed the task much more *slowly* than the other groups.

84. *among*: a preposition used to refer to more than two people, places, or things

I divided the candy *among* the four youngsters.

85. *between*: a preposition used to refer to two people, places, or things

Just *between* the two of us, this restaurant could use some improvement.

86. *likely*: probably or apparently destined to happen

It is quite *likely* that you will be chosen for the debate team.

## 4.16 Usage Words (*Continued*)

87. *liable*: legally responsible

Since you broke this window, you are *liable* for the damages.

88. *disinterested*: impartial; showing no favoritism

A judge should always be *disinterested* and look at only the facts of a case.

89. *uninterested*: not interested

I was *uninterested* when Teddy was talking about his accomplishments.

90. *take*: to move something away from the speaker

Please *take* that noisy toy into the other room immediately.

91. *bring*: to move something toward the speaker

Please *bring* that pitcher of water to me, Raymond.

92. *leave*: to depart; to let stay or be

I must *leave* in an hour or so.

*Leave* that book here.

93. *let*: to allow

*Let* me help you with that heavy package, Marion.

94. *in*: within a particular place

I am studying *in* my room right now.

95. *into*: indicates the movement from one specific area to another specific area


I am now walking from my brother's room *into* my room.

96. *red*: a color

Jason loves to color with his *red* crayon.

97. *read*: the past and past participle of the verb *read*

I *read* that article today.

 **WRITING TIP** Pay attention to how published writers use these words in context. Be wise, and imitate these skilled writers. In addition, your computer's spell-check program will not always detect if you use these words incorrectly. Thus, depend on yourself to know how these words are spelled and used. Be your own best resource!



4.16A

## Be Upbeat! (Usage Words)

Circle the correct word in each sentence. Then, on the line next to the sentence, write the word's corresponding two-letter code that appears above the word. Finally, write the two-letter code answers consecutively on the lines below the last question. If your answers are correct, they will spell out a proverb.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I wanted to sit <sup>as</sup> <sup>pl</sup> (beside, besides) my best friend at that table.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ We could not find the missing cat <sup>mi</sup> <sup>ac</sup> (anywhere, anywheres).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Luke walks <sup>el</sup> <sup>le</sup> (as, like) his older brother.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Our school year is longer <sup>is</sup> <sup>fo</sup> (than, then) yours.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The hotel manager will not allow us to enter <sup>ju</sup> <sup>ne</sup> (unless, without) we show her our key.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Here is the woman <sup>ts</sup> <sup>st</sup> (which, who) won the town's tennis championship.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Do you think that he could <sup>af</sup> <sup>ek</sup> (have, of) landed that airplane more skillfully?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Can you <sup>or</sup> <sup>ro</sup> (learn, teach) us how to repair the burner?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ This car <sup>wn</sup> <sup>er</sup> (doesn't, don't) have great acceleration, so be very cautious when you drive it.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Is he the scientist who <sup>te</sup> <sup>tu</sup> (discovered, invented) the light bulb?

**4.16A Be Upbeat! (Usage Words) (Continued)**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Last winter, two of the stadium's large pipes (burst, busted) due to the frigid weather. **rn io**
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Lucinda, a professional athlete, is a very (good, well) basketball player. **ed hi**
13. \_\_\_\_\_ We have (fewer, less) assistant principals in our school this year. **up et**
14. \_\_\_\_\_ How will this injury (affect, effect) your contract? **si gh**
15. \_\_\_\_\_ All of the swimmers (accept, except) the tall boy qualified for the state championships. **ed de**
16. \_\_\_\_\_ The director divided up the jobs (among, between) the four workers. **do oo**
17. \_\_\_\_\_ (Leave, Let) me complete this math problem by myself please. **rd wn**

The thirty-four letters spell out this proverb: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 4.16B More Usage Words

Match each word in Group One with its definition in Group Two by writing the correct number in its box in the magic square. If your answers are correct, each row, each column, and each diagonal will add up to the same number.

## Group One

- A. leave
- B. invent
- C. let
- D. except
- E. than
- F. affect
- G. between
- H. effect
- I. among
- J. then
- K. learn
- L. accept
- M. besides
- N. teach
- O. discover
- P. beside

## Group Two

- 1. to influence
- 2. a preposition used to refer to more than two people, places, or things
- 3. to be the first to find
- 4. a preposition and a conjunction meaning "with the exception of" or "yet"
- 5. in addition to
- 6. to think out and produce
- 7. the result; to bring about change
- 8. to acquire knowledge
- 9. to allow
- 10. next to
- 11. referring to time
- 12. a conjunction and preposition that introduces the second element in a comparison
- 13. a verb meaning the opposite of "to reject"
- 14. a preposition used to refer to two people, places, or things
- 15. to depart
- 16. to instruct

A =	B =	C =	D =
E =	F =	G =	H =
I =	J =	K =	L =
M =	N =	O =	P =

**4.16C** **Knowing When to Use What (Usage Words)**

On the lines provided, write a sentence for each word in each pair below. Your sentences should clearly display the difference between the two words, which are often confused, in each pair.

**1. anywhere, anywheres**

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**2. who, whom**

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**3. affect, effect**

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**4. unless, without**

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**5. fewer, less**

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**4.16C** **Knowing When to Use What (Usage Words) (*Continued*)**

**6. beside, besides**

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**7. learn, teach**

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**8. among, between**

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**9. accept, except**

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**10. leave, let**

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